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AL-AKHBAR REPORTS GROMYKO SPEECH IN CAIRO

Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 5 Mar 74 pp 1,5 M

[Gromyko speech from reportage on luncheon given by Egyptian Foreign Minister Isma'il Fahmi in Cairo on 4 March]

[Text] Comrade Gromyko delivered the following speech:

Three years have passed since our last visit which was in connection with a prominent event in the relations between the two countries--when the friendship and cooperation treaty between the two countries was signed. Since then, many changes have occurred in the world, and the situation in the Middle East has changed. Life has proven that we were right when we took this step--the conclusion of this treaty--which conforms with the interests of the two parties and agrees with the spirit of the age in tending toward the consolidation of peace and international detente, a trend which is now forging its way in contemporary international relationships.

We should point out with satisfaction that during the trade talks between us you expressed high appreciation for this treaty which quite agrees with our appreciation for it.

The political consultations [mushahadat] which are based on this treaty have played an important role in coordinating the activities we carried out in the stage preceding 6 October 1973 and after it. Consultations were no less important, qualitatively, when the situation changed, in that the Geneva conference began its work--by this I mean the stage of peaceful settlement.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my satisfaction because President Anwar as-Sadat has expressed his high appreciation for this treaty as well.

If we take up the current discussions between the disputing parties they can be summed up in one point: Will the only principle on which peace is based--the principle of returning all the occupied territories and recognizing the Palestinian people's legitimate rights--be realized? It is on this matter that the success of the Geneva talks entirely depends.

It is no secret that Israel is still trying to avoid the clear commitments to return the Arab land. Moreover, the enemies of peace in the Middle East are trying to hamper a just settlement with so-called partial resolutions with the aim of sowing division between the Arab countries and their allies and to create differences between them.

The consolidation of solidarity and the effective utilization of political consultations should be the categorical answer to these attempts.

Comrades, we know your country, and we are satisfied. We have known Egypt in previous visits but every time one discovers something new for oneself. I will not be disclosing a secret when I say that every Soviet citizen who visits Egypt is always interested in knowing more--not only about Egypt's past but also about its present.

When he arrives in Egypt he feels that history itself is extending a hand to him. What makes us even happier is the fact that nothing throughout history was a point of dispute between us.

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If I am to look at the past I would stress this important idea that I have in mind: We must repel all attempts which try to cause a retrogression in the relations between the two countries. We must effectively use this solid base on which the existing relations are founded. It is the hope that responds to the interests of all parties and that harms no one.

On our part in the Soviet Union, we say clearly and firmly that we shall work toward this end.

If the Egyptian side meets the efforts we are exerting toward this end, then it can be said that the friendship between us will certainly be no less solid than the famous pyramids.

Allow me to express confidence that the current talks with the Egyptian leaders will serve this objective in particular; that is, the expansion and deepening of cooperation between the Soviet Union and Egypt.

RECONSTRUCTION COMMITTEE MEETS WITH HATIM

Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 10 Mar 74 M

[Text] The Higher Construction Committee held a 4-hour meeting today under Deputy Prime Minister and Information Minister Muhammad 'Abd al-Qadir Hatim. It discussed the general framework of construction in the canal and Sinai areas. The committee approved the urgent plan for building the canal towns, the programs for implementing the plan, and the current year's financial allocations for construction, amounting to 20 million pounds. The implementation of the various projects will be initiated immediately according to the proposed timetable.

The Construction Committee approved the special measures for initiating the building of three towns around Cairo. It also agreed that the building of the town of As-Sadat on the desert road between Cairo and Alexandria be expedited. The committee recommended that these towns should be integrated and self-sufficient and not suburbs for Cairo. The committee has decided that it is necessary to link these towns with the comprehensive development planning for greater Cairo. It has also decided to draw up a 5-year development plan starting from next year and ending in 1980.

At today's meeting, the committee reviewed the studies on tourist planning for the north coast from Alexandria to As-Sallum, including Marsa Matruh. The radio correspondent has learned that the report on the urgent plan approved by the Higher Construction Committee guarantees the expeditious payment of compensation to enable the Construction Ministry to begin repair or removal operations immediately.

The report explains that the Suez channel [tur'at] has been completely cleared of mines and obstructions, and that potable water will be brought to the town of Suez before 15 March. The report has recommended that the Isma'ilia channel be turned into a first class navigation channel, that temporary bridges be built over it, and that the clearing of the drainage canals in the area be expedited to enable the farmers to begin their work.

The report further recommended that diesel-powered electricity generating units be promptly repaired, and that four gas turbines for the canal towns be installed during the current year.

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REPORTAGE ON VISIT OF USSR FOREIGN MINISTER GROMYKO

Gromyko Statement on Departure

Cairo MENA in Arabic 1055 GMT 5 Mar 74 M

[Text] Andrey Gromyko made a statement to journalists before leaving, in which he said: Useful meetings and discussions were held with President Anwar as-Sadat, Foreign Minister Isma'il Fahmi and senior officials of the Egyptian Government during our official visit to the Arab Republic of Egypt. He added: These discussions were held in a friendly and practical atmosphere. It is my opinion that they served the question of deepening the cooperation between the Soviet Union and the Arab Republic of Egypt.

Gromyko emphasized that the Soviet Union wishes the relations to continue in this direction. He said that a statement will be issued on the results of the Egyptian-Soviet discussions.

The Soviet foreign minister pointed out that his visit to Damascus comes at the invitation of the Syrian Government and to the Egyptian people in general for the welcome accorded to him during his visit [sentence as received].

The Soviet NOVOSTI Agency has reported that Andrey Gromyko's discussions in Cairo and Damascus express the Soviet Union's support for Arab unity and the coordination of efforts among the Arab states to liquidate the Israeli aggression and regain the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people.

Fahmi: Soviets Recognize PLO

Cairo MENA in Arabic 1107 GMT 5 Mar 74 M

[Text] Cairo--Foreign Minister Isma'il Fahmi has stated that it was clear during the constructive discussions held with Soviet Foreign Minister Andrey Gromyko, particularly on the necessity of guaranteeing and respecting the rights of the Palestinian people, that the Soviet Union considers the PLO as the only legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

Joint Statement Issued

Cairo MENA in Arabic 1225 GMT 5 Mar 74 M

[Text] Cairo--Egypt and the Soviet Union have reaffirmed that the implementation of the agreement on Egyptian-Israeli forces disengagement must be considered as a first step toward reaching a comprehensive settlement in the Middle East. The two sides expressed their readiness to discuss the aspects of the settlement within the framework of the Geneva conference, whose convocation they consider to be an important success for the peace-loving forces.

This came in the joint statement issued this evening on the official visit of Soviet Foreign Minister Andrey Gromyko to Egypt. The Egyptian and Soviet sides stressed their determination to continue to strengthen the ties of friendship and cooperation between them in all fields.

The joint statement refers to the meeting held in Cairo between Andrey Gromyko and Yasir 'Arafat, who discussed matters connected with safeguarding the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people.

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Following is text of the statement:

In response to an invitation from the government of the Arab Republic of Egypt, Andrey Gromyko, Politburo member of the CPSU Central Committee and foreign minister of the USSR, paid an official, cordial visit to the Arab Republic of Egypt from 1 to 5 March 1974. President Muhammad Anwar as-Sadat, president of the Arab Republic of Egypt, received Mr Andrey Gromyko. Several matters, particularly those related to Egyptian-Soviet relations were discussed during the meeting in a cordial and constructive atmosphere.

Isma'il Fahmi, foreign minister of the Arab Republic of Egypt, and Andrey Gromyko, Politburo member of the CPSU Central Committee and foreign minister of the USSR, held talks in a cordial and constructive atmosphere. These talks dealt with international issues of interest to both sides, primarily the Middle East question. They also concerned matters related to developing the relations between the two states.

The talks were attended on the Egyptian side by Foreign Ministry Under Secretary Ambassador Muhammad Riyad, Foreign Ministry Under Secretary Ambassador Muhammad Shukri, head of the East European Section Ambassador Kamal ad-Din Zaki, and Director of the Foreign Minister's Office Ambassador 'Umar Sirri. They were attended on the Soviet side by: Mikhail Sytenko, chief Middle Eastern countries department at the Foreign Ministry; Yuriy Chernyakov, member of the Foreign Ministry Collegium and Foreign Ministry secretary general; Vasiliy Makarov, senior assistant to the foreign minister; and Pogos Akopov, acting charge d'affaires at the USSR Embassy.

The two sides confirmed their resolve and desire to continue strengthening the ties of friendship and cooperation between them in the various fields on the strong, longterm bases laid down by the Egyptian-Soviet friendship and cooperation treaty signed on 27 May 1971.

The two sides agreed that the level of relations they have attained through years of cooperation in the various fields is of extreme importance not only to the USSR and the Arab Republic of Egypt, but also to the cause of strengthening peace. Thus, the two sides are determined to preserve and develop these relations, which have been founded on the basis of the common struggle against colonialism, imperialism and aggression and preventing the undermining of these relations.

There were detailed debates of the questions connected with the Middle East situation during the discussions. The two sides reiterated the necessity to strive by all means to reach a just and durable solution to the problem in the manner stipulated in Security Council Resolution 242 of 22 November 1967 and Resolution 338 of 22 October 1973, which provide for Israel's complete withdrawal from all the occupied territories and for guaranteeing the legitimate rights of the Palestinian Arab people.

In this regard, the two sides reaffirmed that the implementation of the agreement on Egyptian-Israeli forces' disengagement must be considered as a first step toward reaching this aim and as an indivisible part of a comprehensive settlement in the Middle East.

The two sides expressed their readiness to carry out a practical discussion of all aspects of a settlement in the Middle East within the framework of the Geneva conference, whose convocation they consider to be an important success for the peace-loving forces. They expressed their common view that the Geneva conference must help in implementing the UN resolutions, particularly Security Council Resolution 242.

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The two sides agree that it is important and necessary for the Soviet Union to participate in all stages of the settlement in the Middle East, including the working committees which the Geneva conference forms. The two sides agreed on the necessity of Palestinian participation in the Geneva conference.

Andrey Gromyko received PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat. They discussed matters connected with safeguarding the legitimate rights of the Palestinian Arab people. Their discussion was held in an atmosphere of mutual friendship and understanding.

The Egyptian side received with appreciation the Soviet Union's preparedness in principle to participate in the repair work connected with the Suez Canal.

The two sides stress the necessity of exchanging views regularly and of coordinating steps between the two countries on all levels whether in the field of their bilateral relations or in connection with the international situation, particularly the developments through which the Middle East problem is passing. The two sides consider the meetings and discussions which took place during the visit to be an important contribution toward the continued deepening and consolidation of the friendly relations between Egypt and the Soviet Union.

President Muhammad Anwar as-Sadat renewed the invitation to CPSU Central Committee General Secretary Leonid Brezhnev to visit the Arab Republic of Egypt.

Soviet Foreign Minister Andrey Gromyko, in the name of the Soviet Government, invited the foreign minister of the Arab Republic of Egypt, Isma'il Fahmi, to pay an official visit to the Soviet Union. His excellency gratefully accepted the invitation. The two sides will agree on the date of the visit later.

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SYRIA

AL-ASAD DETAILS ENVOYS TO INFORM VARIOUS ARAB LEADERS

Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 2115 GMT 5 Mar 74 M

[Excerpts] President Hafiz al-Asad has charged a number of special envoys with the task of conveying messages from his excellency to the Arab kings and presidents in connection with recent developments in the area.

Ba'th Party Regional Command member Maj Gen Naji Jamil has returned to Damascus after conveying a message from the president to His Highness the Amir of Kuwait Shaykh Sabah as-Salim as-Sabah. Ba'th Party Regional Command member 'Abd al-Karim 'Adi will convey messages from the president to UAE President His Highness Shaykh Zayid bin Sultan Al Nuhayyan and his highness the Amir of Bahrain Shaykh 'Isa bin Salman Al Khalifah.

Minister of Culture and National Guidance Hawzi al-Kayyali will convey a message from the president to His Majesty King Hassan II of Morocco. Brig Gen Hikmat ash-Shihabi will deliver a message from the president to His Excellency Sulayman Franjiyah, president of the Lebanese Republic.

GDR OFFICIAL GRUENEBERG DEPARTS DAMASCUS FOR IRAQ

Damascus SANA in Arabic 0820 GMT 2 Mar 74 M

[Text] Damascus--Gerhard Greuneberg, Politburo member and secretary of the Central Committee of the German United Socialist Party, and his delegation left Damascus for Baghdad at 0800 today at the end of a visit of several days to Syria at the invitation of the Socialist Arab Ba'th Party National Command. He was seen off at the airport by Comrade Yasar 'Askari, member of the Socialist Arab Ba'th Party National Command and head of foreign relations office, and a number of party comrades. Also present were the GDR ambassador and socialist countries' ambassadors in Damascus. Grueneberg expressed to Comrade 'Askari his deep thanks for the cordial welcome accorded him and his delegation during their stay in the country. Comrade Yasar 'Askari replied: This visit has stressed the good relations between our two parties and peoples. He wished the guest delegation a successful trip.

DEPUTY MINISTER HAYDAR RETURNS FROM RIYADH

Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 2115 GMT 4 Mar 74 M

[Text] Deputy Prime Minister for Economic Affairs Muhammad Haydar returned to Damascus from Riyadh via Beirut tonight. During his visit to Saudi Arabia, Haydar conveyed a verbal message to His Majesty King Faysal from President Hafiz al-Asad.

MOROCCAN KING'S ACCESSION ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATED

Damascus MENA in Arabic to MENA Cairo 0810 GMT 4 Mar 74 M--FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

[Text] Damascus--Deputy Commander in Chief and Minister of Defense Maj Gen Mustafa Talas, the ministers, Chief of Staff Maj Gen Yusuf Shakkur, and a number of high-ranking officers and party officials attended a big celebration held on the anniversary of Moroccan King Hassan's accession to the throne. Moroccan Ambassador Driss Bennouna and the commander of Moroccan forces in Syria, Gen Safar Diri, delivered speeches over Damascus television on the occasion.

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Voice of Arabs on Relations

Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic to the Arab World 1130 GMT 5 Mar 74 L

[Sabri Subayhan commentary]

[Excerpts] On the occasion of the visit of Soviet Foreign Minister Andrey Gromyko to Cairo and his extremely important political and economic talks with President Anwar as-Sadat, Vice President Dr Mahmud Fawzi and Foreign Minister Isma'il Fahmi, we find it necessary to stress a number of points which we consider extremely important. The first point is that Egyptian-Soviet friendship is a strategic friendship. Over a period of almost 20 years it has managed to achieve many aims of the struggle. It has also managed to express itself forcefully in various fields, especially in the Arab confrontation with the Zionist and imperialist movement in the Arab area. In this confrontation Egypt has shouldered a greater measure of the responsibility. Great stands were adopted in the framework of this friendship and great developments took place in the Arab area in the framework of this friendship.

The second point is that if Egypt and the Arab nation, as a result of the October strike, managed to bring about some basic transformations in the strategy of the major international forces toward the Middle East area and toward the Arab nation in particular the pro-Arab Soviet stand has been one of the strong and influential factors which enable the Arab nation to assert its ability to effect these changes through the glorious October war.